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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1943 No. 2

TYRANNY IS OUR FOE

MR. CHURCHILL

Common conceptions of what is right and decent; a marked regard for fair play, especially to the weak and the poor; a stern sentiment of impartial justice; and, above all, love of personal freedom, these are the common conceptions on both sides of the ocean among the English-speaking peoples

We hold to these conceptions as strongly as you do. We do not war primarily with races as such. Tyranny is our foe: tyranny is our foe whatever trappings or disguise it wears, whatever language it speaks, be it external or internal. We must for ever be on our guard, ever mobilised and vigilant, always ready to spring at its throat. In all this we march together, not only as we march and strive shoulder to shoulder at this moment under the fire of the enemy on the fields of war, or in the air, but also in those realms of thought which are consecrated to the rights and dignity of man

Let us go forward as with other matters and other measures similar in aim and effect—let us go forward with malice to none and goodwill to all. Such plans offer far better prizes than the taking away of other people's provinces or land, or grinding them down in exploitation. The Empires of the future will be Empires of the mind

MR. CHURCHILL *said on September 6 at Harvard University*

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INDIA AND THE WAR EFFORT

"I know from personal experience how very great the contribution of India to the war effort had been. We should not have held the Middle East but for India. I go to India with no illusions as to the great difficulty of my task, but with a very great love for India and a very great liking and sympathy for the Indian people and their aspirations. I can only add to that a very very deep hatred for the Japanese."

—LORD WAVELL, *Viceroy-Designate, at a reception by the Overseas League on September 7.*

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WE HOLD THE INITIATIVE

"Bluntly speaking, we hold the initiative. For all practical purposes, we can strike at the Axis when, where, and how we like.

"We hold this superiority over the toe of Italy, very largely over the Channel, in the Pacific and in Burma. The possession of many aircraft carriers by the Allies multiplies the possibility of other areas of attack.

"The time for final action will come when we have won through the hard crust of resistance on a decisive front. We shall cut into the soft flesh beneath—the poorly-trained air crews and the battered and weary land forces that, from Russia to North Africa have tasted barren victory and bitter defeat."

—SIR PHILLIP JOUBERT, *Air Chief Marshal, in a broadcast on September 2.*

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MECHANICALLY PROPELLED CRAFT
Information to be Supplied to Government

Information about small, mechanically propelled craft is being collected by the Government of India.

A notification by the War Department issued on July 31, 1943, makes it compulsory under the Defence of India Rules for every person owning or having the management of any power-propelled vessel of less than 15 tons (net) to furnish the Flag Officer Commanding, the Royal Indian Navy, Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, with details. Particulars required include the name and address of the owner, and the measurements, speed and capacity, etc., of the vessel. The period in which these details must be supplied has now been extended by one month to October 1, 1943.

It is also provided in the notification of July 31 that in the event of a change of ownership of any such vessel, the transferor and transferee shall be jointly and severally liable to forward to the Flag Officer Commanding, the Royal Indian Navy, the name and address of the transferee. This must be done within seven days of the change.

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ITALY'S CAPITULATION

SEPTEMBER 9.

ALTHOUGH it has been the custom for some months to assume that Italy as a war factor was down and out, the news which broke in this morning's papers must send a thrill of joy and expectation throughout the Allied Nations.

IT is perhaps not so much the fact that the Italian forces have laid down their arms, that such warships of theirs as are at sea or can leave port are sailing for Allied harbours, and that one arm of the Axis giant has been finally amputated, as the imponderable implications of today's news, which most elate the spirit, and provoke our speculation.

SINCE the world was kept in ignorance of the signing of the Armistice itself for six days, it may be assumed that there is much more which the Allied High Command could tell us if such forthcomingness were expedient; in other words immediate prognosis can be hardly better than guess work. Still, since this morning the news of a large Allied armada sailing north and the realization of the freedom of the Tyrrehnian and Adriatic seas seem to justify our wondering how the large number of German divisions in Italy are feeling about it; there are presumably some still serviceable air-fields in Italy from which to lay a few eggs on Bulgaria and the Balkans; the " left in the air-ness " of Spain must diminish any latent anxiety in Allied minds; while the new safety of the world's greatest sea lane, the Mediterranean, cannot fail to have wide effect on the problems of munitions supply to the Allied Forces in the East and the Far East.

WHILE map-makers now start painting Italy red (for to judge from reports she is as likely to be an ally as a neutral), it is now easier to take sides in the strategical debate of which we have lately heard so much. The school most strongly impressed by the Russian demand for a vast and direct offensive from the West against the heart of Germany, has been ranged against the exponents of peripheral strategy. With the final capitulation of the second member of the Axis, it looks as if the former may have to give best to their theoretical opponents. The Russians already perceive the effectiveness of their Allies' success in the South. With Corsica and Crete only as enemy islands in the Mediterranean, and with large German concentrations in the Riviera and in the Balkans as well as in Italy in danger of severance of their communications with their homeland, it is certainly arguable that the African and Sicilian campaigns have produced a direct enough threat to Germany herself. A couple more ' invasions ' from the late ' Italian Lake ', which gives as convenient access to Marseilles as to Salonika, should very greatly encourage the Russian advance from the East; and the German Command will be in a terrible quandary as to which of several menaces is the greatest, for the several occupied countries are likely to become optimistically obstreperous, and the continued and increasing air offensive from Britain on German production centres can hardly be making for hopeful or even level thinking among the Lords of the Herrenvolk.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

General Dittmar's Confession—Impact of Allied Blows

In a talk broadcast from Berlin on Friday last (September 3), on the Fourth Anniversary of the War, General DITTMAR, the German Radio Military Commentator, has given us some idea of the reactions of the German people to the victorious progress of Allied arms. He has given this not in a mood of confession, but in a spirit of despair. He gave the Germans the slogan "Fight to the last," and added "Only this is left to us"! Yes, everything else has gone, but he does not want one thing to crack—the German morale. Lest any one should construe his sentiments as a confession of despair, he said: "Such a decision is not an act of despair, provided it is the result of cool judgment and assessment of all facts." However much German propagandists may try to gloss over the fact that Allied victories in the West and in the East are having a definitely adverse effect on the mind of the German people, the appointment of HEINRICH HIMMLER, the chief of the German Gestapo and head of the notorious S.S. as Minister of the Interior, is a clear indication that something is wrong with the German Home Front, or likely to go seriously wrong.

The impact of the Anglo-American blows from the air have directly brought home to the German people, as nothing else perhaps has so far done, the terrific truth of Mr. CHURCHILL'S statement, "If they can play rough, we can play rough too!" Further, reports of the German reverses from the Eastern front have also had their own effect in shaking the morale of the German people. The position seems to be somewhat similar to that of Germany near the end of the war of 1914–18. What the German leaders were saying then resembles what GOEBBELS is saying to-day. Admiral VON TIRPITZ said, "American aid is, and remains, a phantom." And the KAISER said: "My officers told me that they could find no ships on the high seas." There is close resemblance to this in what Dr. GOEBBELS has written some time ago. In an article in *Das Reich*, he says: "In order to invade, shipping space, above all, is necessary, and that is a quantity which is no more at the disposal of the British and the Americans for war purposes." But the fact is 850 ships took the Allied forces to North Africa in November 1942, and over 3,000 ships took part in the initial landings in Sicily.

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Hitler's Anxiety to prevent Collapse of Morale

The general line of German home propaganda and home policy now is mainly directed to strengthen the morale of the people. HITLER is anxious that the 1918 collapse of the German morale should not be repeated in 1943. That is the clear meaning of the appointment of HIMMLER. HITLER has shown that he wants to rule with unquestioned authority and does not want anything like the Italian political crisis which installed the BADOGLIO Government. He has come to feel that only by force and ruthless and fanatic rule he can keep the people's morale from cracking. Already some of the important departments of Government such as Labour, Justice, Public Health, Industry and the Diplomatic Service have been under the control of HIMMLER'S Storm Troopers, and now the Home portfolio has also been handed over to HIMMLER. This means there is a State within a State, an anonymous Reich Government which has its own special army and police, wholly and completely loyal and devoted to HITLER.

* * * *

Gestapo Rule in Germany—Vengeance of Firing Squad

It may be expected that in the near future there will still be greater and more terrific Allied blows against Germany. The war from the air on German industrial towns and military targets will go on with greater intensity. The effect will be considerable demoralisation in the German Home Front, but HIMMLER can be expected to play the usual brutal role, which has made him notorious among the oppressed peoples of occupied Europe. By appointing HIMMLER as his Minister of the Interior, HITLER seems to have safeguarded himself, for the time being at any rate, from the fate that overtook his partner in crime—MUSSOLINI. This appointment may also be construed as HITLER'S reply to the bombing of Berlin and Hamburg, to the fall of Kharkov and to the Quebec Conference. The choice before the people in Germany seems to be between Allied bombs and Gestapo bullets. If they do not willingly continue to support, to the fullest extent possible, HITLER'S regime, HIMMLER will play havoc. Death from Allied bombs may be uncertain, but there is nothing uncertain about the vengeance of HIMMLER'S firing squad!

* * * *

General Montgomery's Message

General MONTGOMERY, Commander of the Eighth Army, in a reply sent on Saturday (September 4) to a message of congratulations from the Lyric Cinema Junior Club declared, "We have knocked down MUSSOLINI and Fascism in Italy. We will do the same to HITLER and Nazis. We will have unconditional surre der from the Axis." At the time we read the great Commander's message, we thought that the words conveyed much more than what they actually meant at the time. It is now announced that Italy has unconditionally surrendered and that the armistice was signed at the Allied Advance Headquarters on September 3, that is, a day earlier than the message of General MONTGOMERY. It was agreed then with the representatives of the Italian Government that the armistice should come into force at a moment most favourable for the Allies, with a view to avoiding the possibility of any German move in the event of an earlier publication of the news. The terms of the armistice have been approved by Britain, America and Russia. They are of a strictly military character and so have not been published for obvious reasons. Whatever the terms may be, there is no doubt that the unconditional capitulation of the Italian armed forces under the orders of the BADOGLIO Government is the greatest blow to the Axis so far.

* * * *

Marshal Badoglio's Broadcast

In a broadcast to the Italian people, Marshal BADOGLIO stated that the Italian Government recognised the impossibility of continuing an unequal struggle against the overwhelming power of the enemy and so had avoided further and more grievous harm to the nation by requesting an armistice from General EISENHOWER, Commander-in-Chief of the Anglo-American Allied Forces and that the request was granted. It is reported that the BADOGLIO Government have followed up this declaration by abolishing several categories of reserve officers as "unnecessary." This is interpreted as the beginning of a partial demobilisation of the Italian Army. Thus things are happening according to Allied plan.

* * * *

British Army Back in European Soil after three years.

It is of interest to note that the Allied invasion of Italy is not only a part of the great offensive against the Axis in the Mediterranean region, but also an important phase of a continually developing attack by air, land and sea, which will later on become a full-fledged "second front" to aid Russia. Though the Allied landings in Italy do not constitute a "second front" in the strict sense of the term as popularly understood, they no doubt form the beginning of a great invasion of HITLER'S European fortress. Three years after Dunkirk the British army is again back on the soil of Europe! The

(*Continued on page* 14)

1943: A YEAR OF GERMAN REVERSES

WHEN on August 21, 1939, Hitler told Sir Neville Henderson that "he preferred war now" when he was 50 years old rather than when he would be 55 or 60, his clairvoyant powers did not enable him to foresee the pass to which the path of war which he was thus deliberately choosing would bring him and Germany four years later.

At the age of 50, Hitler stood at the pinnacle of his power and prestige. Without having as yet had to resort to war, he had torn up the Treaty of Versailles and had annexed Austria and had wiped Czechoslovakia off the map. In the process, he had scored for Germany resounding diplomatic victories over all other great Powers. Even after he had plunged his country and Europe so recklessly into the war, his star continued long in the ascendant.

By the first anniversary of the outbreak of the war, Poland, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France had all been defeated or occupied by National Socialist Germany and most of the world outside Britain considered that Great Britain would very soon go the same way. The air battle of Britain and the heavy aerial bombardment of Britain's cities had only just begun and although the Luftwaffe had already met with some significant checks in Britain's skies, it had not yet been driven from them. Well might Hitler at the end of August 1940 congratulate himself upon his decision to go to war at 50.

By the end of August 1941, although Britain had not been invaded or defeated, there were still apparently many reasons why Hitler should consider himself infallible He had attacked the Soviet Union on June 22 and in two months, his armies had penetrated deep into Russia and were threatening both Moscow and Leningrad. In the spring of that year, the whole of the Balkan Peninsula had come under Axis occupation or control and a German army, Rommel's Afrika Korps, had been landed in Libya and driven General Wavell—whose defeat of Marshal Graziani the previous winter was the first major British success of the war on land—back into Egypt. Total victory was still not secured but the Germans were already claiming that the Russian armies could hardly be said to exist any longer and that Britain hard-pressed by intensified U-boat attacks was still in a very tight corner. The mood of the Germans was "We have almost finished off Britain."

The picture was very different even by September 1942, and to-day in September 1943, Germany has had a year of reverses and disappointments such as she has known only twice in the last century and a half—in 1918 and 1806. After their defeats on the eastern front in the winter of 1941, Germany's armies had one more period of victorious advances last summer when they swept forward to the foothills of the Caucasus and reached the Don at Stalingrad. But this was to be the limit of their successes. From Stalingrad, they were sent reeling back in one of the greatest military defeats of history.

The efforts of the Germans to launch a limited offensive on the Kursk salient this July were ineffective. Though they suffered grievous losses, our Russian allies were able to hold this attack and within a month regain the small amount of ground lost and go over to the offensive themselves. Recently the first major phase of this offensive was crowned by the recapture of Kharkov—and the German retreat continues. One year ago the German armies were advancing to the east. To-day the tables are turned. Moreover, the Germans have been driven out of North Africa and Sicily; several of their greatest cities have been battered from the air and the rest of Germany, including the capital—which has had a foretaste of what its fate is to be—stands in hourly danger of similar treatment. What of the effect of the German reverses upon the morale of the people and particularly on the position and the prestige of the National Socialist Party?

In these days of disaster, it is sinister Himmler who has come to the top. Four years ago, Himmler was already a powerful figure, but there were several other men in Germany in addition to Hitler himself who had more prestige and greater power though they may not have been as much feared as he.

Now Hitler keeps in the background; Himmler who in the past has always worked behind the scenes has been pushed by events to the forefront of the stage. It is significant that a man of his character should have been given virtually unlimited powers in order to keep the necessary grip on the home front. The strain on the German people has not yet become intolerable, but anxious Nazi leaders know that it will become increasingly heavy and they are preparing accordingly. The Allies watch without illusions for they know well that there can be no break in Germany until the armed forces of the enemy are defeated.—*The Times.*

FROM BATTLE OF BRITAIN TO BATTLE OF EUROPE

TIME was when the Nazis rode roughshod over the Low Countries and the tramp of German boots shook the French countryside. It was a bleak moment for Britain. People's thoughts were turned to pictures of invasion, of battles raging on country lanes defended by men with hearts of oak and guns of wood, of church bells ringing to herald the tread of men in field grey with jackboots marching upon London.

The threat of carnage hangs again, but somehow it is different. This time it seems the bloodshed will be elsewhere. Hope has taken the place of vague anxiety and there is a spirit of confidence.

Then the Allied armies were backing out, edging out of the Continent. Now they are edging up to besiege Hitler in his own citadel. The sands are running out for his Festung Europa.

Let us glance back.

After Poland, Denmark and Norway felt the Nazi might on April 9, 1940. A month later Hitler attacked Holland and Belgium. The Nazi machine broke the back of Dutch resistance in four days. It took 18 days more to engulf the Belgians and drive the Anglo-French army to the sea.

The epic of Dunkirk followed. As French resistance was folding up, Italy entered the war. Britain stood alone between the aggressor and his dreams of world domination.

BLOODY, BUT UNBOWED

Now come the stories of Britain's cities and their trial by fire and explosive—the Battle of Britain—and of the reaction of an angry and dogged people and their unrehearsed heroism.

This was a Clydeside householder after a stick of bombs had fallen: "Are you alive, are you alive?" After a moment's silence: "By gosh, I believe I am. I thought I was deid till you spoke." The clothes had been blown off the lad. "Ma maw will gie me a hell o' row for wasting ma good troosers," he said.

Or the worried but resourceful father who warmed his baby's milk on a burning incendiary bomb! Or the old lady telling her neighbour as she cleared the debris and broken glass from her front path: "Well, there's one thing about these raids, they do make you forget about the war."

That was the spirit which carried them through the dreadful nights and days.

The Luftwaffe failed to cow down Britain. Wreckage was cleared, production continued, and a new army was created and equipped with new weapons. In the Mediterranean, the British sought out and bombed Italian warships. Malta survived ceaseless Axis pouding from the air.

In December 1940, General Wavell started an offensive which drove out Italians from Egypt, and Cyrenaica. Further, Eritrea and Somaliland were captured, and, in May, 1941, Haile Selassie was restored to his throne. The Italian empire in Africa was liquidated.

Meanwhile Greece and Yugoslavia had fallen to the foe, Crete had been taken, and Nazi intrigues in Iraq were becoming more than apparent. In June, Hitler invaded Russia. Four months later, German troops were at the gates of Leningrad, Moscow and Rostov. General Wavell's army, reduced in strength by the diversion of aid to Greece, was pushed back to the Egyptian border.

Allied troops moved up into Iraq, Syria and Persia to thwart Axis designs in the Middle East. In the winter of 1941, Russia, fighting with unparalleled tenacity, upset Hitler's time-table.

Japan started a war of her own in the Pacific in December, 1941. The first four months of campaigning saw her winning all along the line—from the Philippines to Burma.

The sea-saw battle in the Western Desert continued and Axis advance was finally halted at El Alamein, just 70 miles short of Alexandria. The Germans were in Stalingrad. Again Hitler's time-table was upset. The British Eighth Army's offensive in October 1942, kept Rommel on the run from El Alamein to Tripoli and beyond. And the gallant Red Army, after bitterest fighting, drove the Germans out of Stalingrad.

THE TIDE TURNS

Thus now in the European theatre: North Africa has been cleared of the enemy; Sicily (besides Pantellaria and Lampedusa) has been taken; Mussolini has quitted the scene. The Red Army has won resounding successes and holds the initiative for the first time in summer fighting.

On the Pacific front Japan's progress has been arrested. Severe naval losses have been inflicted on her and the initiative in the island-to-island warfare to take back lost territories continues in favour of the Allies. China is fighting on.

To-day the Allies have initiative in the air and on the sea. The Royal Air Force's courtesy visits to German cities with 8,000-lb. block-busters are becoming more and more frequent.

Allied encirclement of the Axis is complete. And Hitler finds himself living in a Teutonic nightmare of fighting on all sides at once—and that in a fortress divided and secretly in mutiny.

The tide has turned.

"GODAVARI" LEADS THE FLEET

BROADCASTING a description of the King's visit to the Home fleet, Commander Anthony Kimmings, R.N., said: "The Royal visit . . . a happy reunion with his friends. It was the same everywhere he went. No matter what ship—whether the *Malaya*, one of the battleships in which he had served during the last war, our own fleet destroyers, the Greek destroyer *Themistocles*, the *Huron*, manned by great lusty Canadians, a submarine or the Indian sloop, *Godavari*. Wherever he went, the King always seemed to be finding old friends. Friends he had met on his travels overseas, old shipmates, men with ribbons on their chests whom he had decorated at Buckingham Palace, and youngsters whom he had last met around camp fires at his Duke of York's camps.

Australians, Canadians and South Africans, men from all over the world who had come thousands of miles to serve in the Home fleet, but perhaps the scene in the Royal Indian sloop, *Godavari*, brought this home more than anywhere else. Somehow, their glistening faces and Sikhs in their white turbans looked grander than ever upon there in those cold northern waters.

Their ship was spotless. When they first heard of the news who was coming abroad, they just had not believed it. It could not be true. Then they set to spend the whole night cleaning and polishing. By the time the King arrived, their ship—from shining brass work to the ship's cat with a blue ribbon around her neck, was a picture.

When His Majesty left, I purposely remained on board. I felt I must hear them cheer at close quarters. 'Three Cheers for the King-Emperor!' There was something in that cheer which I cannot describe. As the Royal barge steamed away the disperse was sounded, but those men did not leave the rails. They watched until the barge had gone alongside the flagship and until their King-Emperor had gone on board and for a long time after he had disappeared from view.

Some time later I was talking to an Indian yeoman of the Signals who had broken the Royal standard at the masthead. His hands were still trembling with excitement. The next day when His Majesty took his fleet to sea, that small sloop was given the proud privilege of being the leading ship—the guide of the fleet—as we steamed out of the harbour. As we reached the open sea, she hauled out on the starboard beam. At her yardarm fluttered the signal 'Long Live the King-Emperor.' And down her side those men from all over India stood cheering themselves hoarse. The King-Emperor jumped up on to a steel chest and saluted until they were well astern. Then—just as they had watched him disappear the night before—stood there very still watching them dropping from sight.

That day at sea was a very historic one. It was historic because it was the first time for nearly 600 years that a reigning sovereign had taken his fleet to sea in wartime."

LUFTWAFFE'S FADING POWER

By LEONARD ENGEL

Over 65,000 Nazi planes have tailed into smoke since the war began. With a daily operating strength of less than 4,000 planes, the Luftwaffe's power is fading fast.

THE "invincible" *Luftwaffe* received its first beating in the Battle of Britain in the fall of 1940. Berlin's hardheaded strategists, however, were shrewd enough to break off the futile attacks on London before their prized air fleet could suffer irreparable damage. During the next winter and spring Nazi losses were more than made good by the prodigious capacity of German arms factories. By the time Hitler was ready to invade the Soviet Union in June 1941, the *Luftwaffe* was stronger than ever.

The attack on Russia is the event from which the real decline of German air power is dated. In nearly every one of the months since then, losses in battle, accidents, and wear and tear have exceeded new production by a cheering margin. Air and ground crews have also been steadily depleted. On June 22, 1941, by condemning it to around-the-map operations, Hitler struck his air force, as well as his army, a blow which will prove the key to its eventual ruin.

RECORD OF SHRINKAGE

Reconstructing the record of the *Luftwaffe's* shrinkage and measuring its remaining strength, however, are difficult tasks. Few battle reports are fully accurate, no matter how honest and painstaking the men who make them, for air action is extremely confusing.

But there are facts which no censor can conceal and no Goebbels can distort.

When Hitler invaded the U.S.S.R., the *Luftwaffe*—trainers, transports, and auxiliaries are not included in these figures—consisted of five air fleets, each of 1,300 planes, plus the Richthofen Group, a special unit of 800 machines—chiefly dive-bombers. These—nearly 7,500 aircraft altogether—provided the German High Command with a day-to-day operating force of 6,000 fighting ships, by far the heaviest "air weapon" ever forged. An additional 15,000 to 18,000 fighters and bombers were undergoing major overhaul, in storage, or otherwise in reserve behind the lines.

AVERAGE LOSSES

Except for the Battle of Britain, in which for two months it lost planes almost twice as fast as they could be replaced, the *Luftwaffe* had been treated with unusual kindness by the first year and three-quarters of war. Its average losses—including the toll of accidents and wear—had not been much more than 500 combat craft a month. Scores of *Luftwaffe* units had been idle for six months at a time. But on June 22, 1941, every squadron was pressed into service. Four air fleets and the Richthofen Group were hurled at the Soviets. The remaining fleet had to cover all the rest of Europe. The *Luftwaffe* soon showed signs of strain.

The "death rate" of a fighting air service from all causes is generally about one-fifth of its entire force, first-line and reserve, each month. The *Luftwaffe*, owing to a phenomenally efficient repair and salvage service, has an unusually low "death rate"—one-seventh a month.

Its losses since June 22, 1941, are nevertheless astronomical. During the first five months of the Nazi-Soviet struggle, Goering's flying Aryans lost more than 20,000 planes, enough to equip 15 air fleets.

Even the German aircraft industry and air-crew training system were unable to keep pace with this extravagant expenditure. In September of 1941 the four air fleets on the Soviet front were regrouped into three, to close the gaps in each, and Rommel was able to obtain only a dribble of air reinforcements to meet the expected British push in Africa.

When the turn came in the Battle of Moscow, and the Nazis realized no German would sit in Stalin's Kremlin chair that year, German air activities in Russia were reduced to a minimum. The *Luftwaffe* needed a rest, and its planes and equipment were not suited to the Russian winter anyway. As a result, Nazi casualties in the east dropped to 1,000 or so planes a month.

The winter gave the *Luftwaffe* the opportunity to recoup at least some of the strength it had dissipated—in Russia, in the Mediterranean area, and on the western air front. A million and a half German soldiers were furloughed for three months of work in war factories, a third of them in the Heinkel, Messerschmitt, Dornier, Junkers, and the other great airplane plants. As a result, German plane builders built more fighting machines in January, and February a year ago than ever before or since.

EXPENSIVE WARFARE

Enough combat ships were stored away out of the record-breaking winter production to give the High Command the use of 5,000 to 5,500 planes a day for the strokes it planned for 1942.

In the greatest of these, the drive to the Volga, the Nazis unveiled a new kind of warfare. German generals call it *Mot Pulk*—motorised pulverisation. The generals decided that blitzkrieg's free-ranging panzer-stuka team was not heavy enough to hold what it gained. In 1941 literally dozens of German armoured divisions had plunged through the Soviet lines, only to be cut off from the rear and annihilated by counter-attacking Soviet troops and planes. The German High Command's remedy was to back the tanks with endless regiments of motorised infantry and artillery and to shield the land units with unheard-of concentrations of air power—hundreds of planes to pound a single square mile.

In the end, *Mot Pulk's* principal accomplishment seems to have been the rapid exhaustion of its inventors. It was really the mass fighting of 1914–18 dolled up in the streamlines of 1942. It was the most expensive kind of warfare the perverted minds of war-mad men have ever conceived.

With fewer planes to lose, the *Luftwaffe*, in the summer and fall of 1942, lost on a single front as many as on two in the previous year. Throughout the 1942 summer 3,000 German planes a month died, more than half of them in the furnace of Stalingrad.

FOUR DEVELOPMENTS

When 1942–43 winter's general Soviet offensive ended German attempts to expand the Nazi hand-hold on the Russian jugular vein—the Volga—the day-to-day strength of the *Luftwaffe* was once more down to 4,000 bombers and fighters, or less (plus 11,000 to 14,000 reserves). Four thousand planes are not many less than 4,500, Germany's end-of-the campaign strength in 1941. But the *Luftwaffe's* position to-day is graver than the figures suggest, for in the 1942–43 winter it has had little chance to recuperate. Four developments have conspired to bring this about.

Of the possibilities for which the Nazis had to prepare as 1941 drew to a close, almost the most remote was an Allied invasion of Europe from the south. Heavy *Luftwaffe* garrisons were needed below Germany only in Sicily and southern Italy, to command the central Mediterranean. Now things are different. Instead of idling through the cold months, many a German air squadron has been on active duty in the Mediterranean.

Another development is the ever greater weight of attacks on Germany and occupied Europe by the Royal Air Force and the growing United States Army Air Force units in England. Air attacks alone cannot make Germany quit. Yet the Reich obviously cannot ignore them, lest unharried Allied bombers accomplish even greater damage than they now do. Anti-raid defence is thus a constantly increasing drain on the Reich's resources in the air.

MAN-POWER SHORTAGE

As a result of the Russian winter hay-makers and the frantic German effort to ring the Continent in an unbreakable band of steel, the High Command has been able to furlough few soldiers for temporary factory work. So this year there has been hardly any winter increase in the flow of airplanes to the *Luftwaffe*.

As a matter of fact, Hitler's mighty arsenals are slowing down. The Reich is in the grip of a critical manpower shortage, caused by the astronomical German casualties in Russia. The shortage comes just when our active participation in the fighting is doubling and tripling the arms requirements of the Nazi army, navy and air force. Want of manpower has compelled the Nazis to lift their ban on foreign arms workers in Germany and to reopen factories in the occupied countries.

The last year and a half, therefore, have not only shrunk the *Luftwaffe* materially but have thinned its ranks as well. Since it takes even the most fanatical member of the Hitler Youth longer to learn to fly a plane than a factory to build one, the Germans may now be shorter of personnel than of planes.

65,000 PLANES DESTROYED

In the three and a half years since September 1939, the *Luftwaffe* has lost, from all causes on all fronts, at least 65,000 combat planes. To the Royal Air Force goes direct credit for 10,000 of these, shot down in battle and reported in British communiquès, and for 10,000 more—those whose end the British did not see and those worn out or wrecked on the Anglo-German air fronts. In the balance book of war the ceaseless activities of the Royal Air Force Fighter Command are fully as important as the more spectacular bomber offensive over Germany.

One thing is clear. The *Luftwaffe* will never regain the power that made it the most deadly air weapon on earth. This year's Allied offensive will shrink it faster and further while United Nations frontline air strength increases daily.

R.I.N. SHIP IN ACTION OFF SICILY

HELPS TO PROTECT CONVOY FROM AIR ATTACK

ESCORTING large convoys of vessels carrying men and supplies from North African ports to Sicily, His Majesty's Indian ships continue to render good service in the Mediterranean, writes a Royal Indian Navy Observer at sea in one of these warships.

Within the past few days one vessel of the Royal Indian Navy has been engaged in hunting Axis submarines in a danger area off Cyrenaica, while another Royal Indian Navy ship has helped to ensure that an important convoy reached its destination safely. I was on board the second warship, and can vouch for the fact that not a single ship was lost or damaged during the voyage. So keen was the watch kept by the escorting warships that the enemy did not venture to attack, although throughout the voyage reports of activity by submarines continued to reach us and hostile aircraft are believed to have spotted the convoy.

On the night of our arrival at a Sicilian port the enemy staged an air raid by the light of the waning moon. His plan was to sink ships in the harbour, but the anti-aircraft guns of the British, the Indian and the Greek warships put up such an effective barrage that the planes dropped their bombs at random and failed to hit anything.

I was on the bridge at the time, and it was a most impressive sight to watch all the Naval ships firing every available high angle weapon, at the same time laying a smoke screen for the protection of the merchant ships within the harbour. The Royal Indian Navy ship kept up a good rate of fire—she is particularly well-armed with anti-aircraft guns—and in helping to repel these attacks her Indian gun crews fired salvoes totalling several hundred rounds from 4 o'clock until dawn broke. Acrid cordite fumes hung over the ship. Officers and men welcomed this opportunity of going into action, but the raiders kept at a respectful distance and indulged in high level bombing that brought them no results. Despite their anxiety to keep out of range, the barrage managed to bring down at least one of the hostile planes.

In addition to experiencing this raid, the convoy while at sea had several alarms heralding possible air and submarine attacks. During these periods our ship's company remained at "defence stations," which means that half the complement was constantly on watch while the other half rested, prepared however to dash off to action stations and man the guns. All apparatus for detecting the enemy was of course permanently manned, and the convoy enjoyed constant Royal Air Force protection overhead.

The Royal Indian Navy ships' companies appreciate this chance of engaging the Axis forces and gaining valuable experience of modern sea warfare, and they hope that further opportunities of action will follow. At this time of year the Mediterranean offers ideal operational conditions, although at intervals storms suddenly arise. This happened during the first stage of the invasion of Sicily, when the convoy that His Majesty's Indian ships helped to escort encountered very rough weather on the passage from Africa. Despite this, all the ships arrived at their disembarkation points according to schedule. Dawn on "zero day" found His Majesty's Indian ships within a few miles of the Sicilian coast, watching troops land on the beaches and carrying out constant patrols while screening the convoy against possible attack.

Since then our ships have ranged far and wide, refuelling and victualling in the shortest possible time and then dashing off again to escort another convoy with men and supplies for the front line. Officers and men are in excellent fettle and seize every opportunity of taking physical exercise. For instance, during the latest spell of escort work, within an hour of the convoy's arrival off Sicily scores of men jumped into the sea and enjoyed a refreshing swim. That same night the ship gave a good account of herself in action against the enemy aircraft. The only cause for complaint is that no mails have come from India since our ships arrived on the Mediterranean station. Everyone is hoping that there will be letters in plenty for us when we return to our base.

GOEBBELS HAS SLIPPED AT SEA

By A. J. McWHINNIE

MONTH by month and year by year, Germany has been placing too much reliance on the careless claims of successes made by the commanders of their U-boats and observers of their aircraft. The large numbers of ships announced by Germany as sunk were, in fact, sailing serenely on unharmed. Every ship unharmed out on the ocean is one more available to swell the Allied invasion tonnage. That tonnage, totalling millions of tons, was used to win North Africa and win Sicily. With millions of tons of new building, the next blows are about to be struck.

THE SCORES THEY SANK STILL SAIL

Scores of British cruisers and corvettes, destroyers and freighters, fighting out on the oceans to-day have been named as casualties by the German radio. Tens of thousands of British seamen have come to regard German sea propaganda as a joke even though they never make the German mistake of underrating the actual fighting men ranged against them.

There are thousands of people in Germany who cannot forget that even 24 hours before the landings in North Africa, German radio commentators were saying that no invasion anywhere could take place because too many British ships have been sunk. Even as those broadcasters spoke, British invasion ships were under way. Then to hearten the German people, Goebbels ordered his mouth-piece to emphasise that the iron ring round Europe was invincible. The iron ring was broken open at Sicily. All the time Goebbels was convincing—or trying to convince—the German people that U-boats, though having setbacks, could not fail. They are failing. Every month of failure swells the amount of additional tonnage to be used against the Axis.

GERMANY'S WEAKENING SHIPPING POSITION

When Britain was losing too many ships British spokesmen told their people the truth. The sea position was grave. There was need for belt-tightening. When the position improved and the toll of U-boats started increasing as shipping losses started decreasing, the British people were told of the improvement but warned to expect setbacks. It would be well even at this late stage for Goebbels to follow the same line in relation to Germany's weakening shipping position. The bombing of Hamburg, Germany's best and biggest port, could not be concealed from the German people. But even then Berlin did not admit that the bombing of Hamburg had seriously affected the German shipping situation.

I estimate that when the first raid was staged over Hamburg, there was nearly a quarter of a million tons of shipping—active shipping—in the port. To-day Hamburg is denuded of active shipping.

THE THINGS TO COME

So far as I can judge, some of the ships which once used Hamburg will be diverted to Emden and Bremen. Others will have use of Lubeck to link up with Norway. The remainder will no doubt go to Rotterdam. And it is well to remember that all those ports have been bombed before and that they can be bombed again. Meanwhile, the sea and air blockade of all German shipping is closing in. Never in the history of Germany were ships needed more. As it becomes more and more necessary to ship troops to hard-hit battle fronts, so the German shortage of shipping will be more serious. I anticipate greater evidence of attacks on this vital shipping during the next few weeks.

BREAKER OF RECORDS

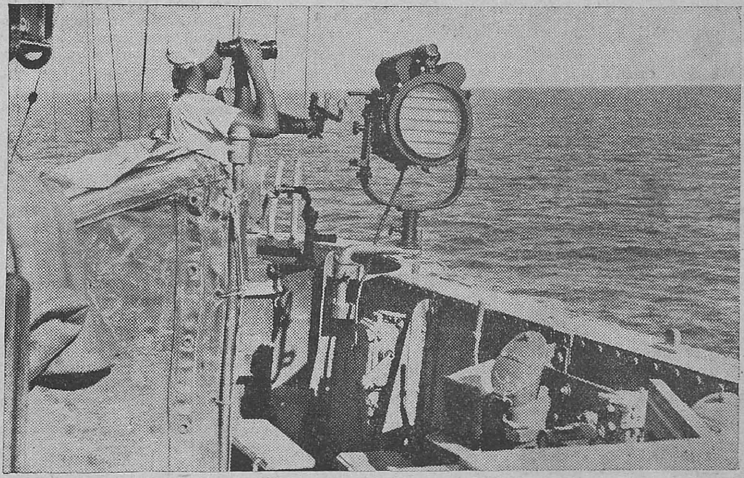
Mr. Henry Kaiser continues to break shipbuilding records.

What America expects of him is illustrated by this story of his meeting with a group of Washington newspapermen. He arrived thirty minutes late, and explained he'd had to wait for a taxi.

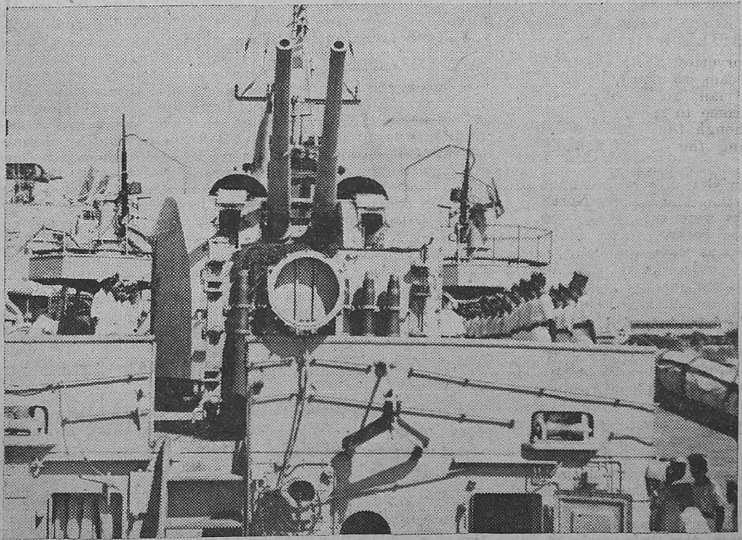
"You waited half an hour for a taxi!" exclaimed one pressman incredulously. "Why didn't you build one?"

SICILIAN CONVOY

From the time they leave their port in Africa, till they arrive at their destination in Sicily, and all the way back too, H.M.I. ships engaged in escorting convoys across the Mediterranean, are exercising their men in gun drill, depth charge practice and the like in order to maintain the highest pitch of efficiency.



Lookouts constantly scan the horizon through binoculars and telescopes.



Sunday Divisions aboard one of H.M.I. ships in harbour in the Mediterranean after a long spell at sea. The Commanding Officer goes round inspecting the ship to satisfy himself that everything aboard is spick and span.

TURKISH REACTIONS TO MUSSOLINI'S FALL

By LEONARD KIRSCHEN

THE Verona meeting had shown that something had gone wrong in Italy but no one had thought that it might be a tender farewell meeting of the two dictators.

Events moved with lightning rapidity, so much so, that nobody really expected to wake up one Monday morning and read in the newspapers that Mussolini had resigned. When the people of Turkey did wake up on the morning of July 26, they were amazed. There is no other definition that we can give to their first reaction.

The Turkish people have nothing against the Italian people. All newspapers were quick in making this point. As regards Mussolini, the Turkish Press criticized his 21-year-long dictatorship which was a mild way of saying that they had never liked Mussolini. As a matter of fact Mussolini was hated or worse still, held in great ridicule.

I can remember the time when, before the Turkish Press was instructed to keep strictly neutral and refrain from attacking heads of Governments, cartoonists plastered the dailies and satirical weeklies with Mussolini. When the restrictions came into force, they just added a moustache and fulfilled the law.

A typical cartoon was the one published recently. It represented a Fascist schoolmaster, complete with breeches, blackshirt and forage cap with tassels, addressing a similarly clad school-boy. "What is an island?" he was asking. The schoolboy replied: "An island, Sir, is a country surrounded by the British fleet."

TURKEY'S ENEMY

Mussolini was Turkey's greatest enemy. His plans for the restoration of the Roman Empire were endangering Turkey's security in the Mediterranean. It was only too clear after the landing in Albania, and before and during the Italian immixture in Spanish affairs that the peoples of the Mediterranean would not get much of a chance in this "mare nostrum."

Turkey's anxiety was confirmed when Italy attacked Greece. Just as Hitler was carrying out his plans, step by step, as laid down in his Mein Kampf, Mussolini was carrying out his. Now the Turks remark: "Mussolini has promised Italy, Corsica and Nice, Savoy and Tunis, conquered Libya and Abyssinia." He has kept his promise, say the Turks and conclude "The Italians have been everywhere where he had promised to lead them."

Official reaction was very slow to come but when it did, it came in two articles published in the Government's official newspaper *Ulus*. They represent the Government's point of view and come from the pen of Falih Rifki Atay, President of the Turkish Press Delegation that visited India at the beginning of this year. Here is the first one.

"Mussolini," writes Atay, "was useful to Italy when he took over power during the state of anarchy which reigned in Italy. During 20 years, he succeeded in restoring order to his country and enlarged the Empire by the conquest of Abyssinia. Being used to seeing things optimistically, a dictator, endowed with all natural gifts and luck, can only make a lot of mistakes.

"Mussolini saw his work crumble for three reasons: firstly, because at the time of the sanctions against Italy, he had thought that the British Empire had been vanquished, secondly, because after the fall of France in 1940, he had thought that the war had finished and, thirdly, because in making other people believe all this, he finished by fooling himself.

"The national and international prestige of Fascism was shattered when with the aid of Germany, Italy the all-powerful, was saved from the hands of little Greece

"Since that day, Italy's fate depended on that of her ally, Germany and the latter's victory. But after the defeat in North Africa followed by that in Sicily, the people of Italy and her army have abandoned Fascism and its boss, because Italy was more and more convinced that if a defensive war on the Continent was going to save Germany, for herself it was of no avail. It was then that nothing remained but resignation.

"Although one does not know what exactly is happening inside the country, the fact that a dictator of such resolute and daring character resigned from power after examining all the possibilities, because he did not want the tragedy of war to be added to the tragedy of events at home, is one good point in favour of Mussolini."

Discussing the advantages and disadvantages of dictatorial regimes, Atay continues:

"The Allies have proclaimed that no peace is possible with Italy as long as Mussolini and Fascism remain in power. But we shall see that no country that once embarked upon war can escape the responsibilities and consequences of defeat by just sacrificing one person and one party. The Allies not only accuse Italy of having participated in the second great World War, but also for having prepared this war and for having paved the way for dictatorial regimes. It is certain that Italy will be deprived of all possibilities of being again in a state of producing a man or a party capable of constituting a similar danger.

"But in order to reach that stage, it is necessary that Italy gives herself up or that she is put out of the fight. Will the Allied armies be allowed to march through the Brenner pass? It is rather interesting to note that if Italy surrenders, she will suffer the same fate as France whose heritage Italy had coveted. She would then unite with her enemy against her ally, whose attacks she will have to bear."

"The consequences of Italy's defeat," concludes Atay, "and Mussolini's resignation will be many and great."

In his second article of the series, we can see from the bitterness of Atay's tone how the Turks resented this Italian encroachment, known as the "revival of the old Roman Empire." Headlined "The Decision to Enter The War," Atay, after discussing the responsibility that falls on leaders who declare war, continues:

"Now all Italians are asking the following question: 'Can we remain neutral?' They are now convinced that their entry into this war was absolutely useless. It was perhaps nice to dream of the restoration of the old Roman Empire. Up to this day, however, no hope ever was so painfully destroyed. If Italy had remained neutral, she would have found herself to-day on the shores of the Red Sea. Her armies would have remained intact, and also her fleet and air force. All Italians' ears would under these circumstances have lent themselves willingly and with great attention to the speeches from the Palazzo Venezia.

"To consider his nation as very great and the Anglo-American world as nothing, to believe that in 20 years the Italian nation had become a nation of heroes and conquerors—like the Romans—to believe in the degeneration of England's fighting qualities, to estimate that this way of looking at things and summing them up is itself sufficient in order to wage an offensive war,—is not all this the result of pride and vanity of such a nature as to prevent news agencies from working normally?"

Remarking that Italy owes more to her diplomacy than to her strength and her Italian Empire, Atay says that "it is a pity that whole nations must suffer for the faults committed by one man and one party."

Atay concludes:

"Fascism which since 1941 had declared the Mediterranean as an inland sea whilst denying to all countries on its shores the right to have an industry, had proclaimed its determination to make of all these territories markets for the industrial products of Italy. Fascism in 1943 proclaimed, in order to encourage the Italian people to resist the hardships of the war, that the Allies would condemn her to cultivate grain only. The disappearance of Fascism, which has made itself known as a perpetual war danger because it proclaimed that it knew no other law than the sacred law of war, constitutes without doubt a great relief to all peace-loving countries."

What more can one add to what Atay has already said? I can only say that his is one of the many Press commentaries which all run on the same lines and if I have picked these two it is because these particular commentaries reflect in some measure the opinion of the Government of the Turkish Republic.

AT PORT DARWIN

The troops sent to Port Darwin in case of a Japanese attack all say the surrounding country is the loneliest they've ever struck. Here's how one American soldier puts it:

"When you've been there a few weeks you begin talking to yourself. After that you talk to the lizards. Another fortnight and you find the lizards talking to you. Then you find yourself listening."

R.I.N. PERSONNEL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Under the scheme for the expansion of India's Navy, some of H.M. Indian ships have been built in the United Kingdom. To man them, officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy proceed to the United Kingdom, where they go into training with the Royal Navy until the vessels are commissioned. When this takes place, R.I.N. personnel take over the new additions to India's Navy and bring them to this country.

Mr. W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner for New Zealand, and Mrs. Lall (in the foreground) *inspecting R.I.N. personnel. With them are Admiral Sir Charles Little, Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth Command, and Mrs. Jordan.*

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN ALLIANCE

ON the first anniversary of the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance (May 26, 1943), the Soviet Press led by *Pravda* stated that "the whole course of events has confirmed Stalin's words" and that "the alliance has withstood a serious historic test in the fire of great battles."

In the same article *Pravda* carried the theme further and drew attention to the wider aspects of the alliance, introducing the Soviet public almost for the first time to the encouraging prospect of continued Anglo-Soviet collaboration, political and economic, in the post-war period—

"German imperialism has for the second time within one generation dragged the world into a bloody and devastating war. The nations have not only decided to fight until victory, but also to secure such a post-war organization of peace as would prevent the repetition of bloody aggression. The Anglo-Soviet treaty has laid down our programme of action for the post-war period in partnership with Great Britain. It is one of the most important instruments for securing a just peace."

On the same day *Izvestia* said—

"The Anglo-Soviet treaty concluded for the duration of the war and for a period of 20 years thereafter inspires the Soviet people with confidence that friendship between the U.S.S.R. and Great Britain will continue to develop and gain strength during this period. The Soviet people are certain that, after the defeat of Hitlerite Germany, Britain and the U.S.S.R. will, in full accord with Part II of the treaty, work jointly in close and friendly co-operation for the organization of security and economic prosperity in Europe."

Evidence of British goodwill and British military and industrial capacity has been freely offered to Russian readers and listeners. Professor Ivanov has explained sea power and the work of the Royal Navy on the Soviet radio, in *Pravda* and other journals. "Desert Victory" has been shown in Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad and other cities. Central and Far Eastern dailies carry news from London in considerable volume.

The Royal Air Force's pounding of the Ruhr is prominently featured in the news columns and explained by technical experts in the organ of the Red Army.

Pravda of June 3 said—

"The mighty concentrated blows of the Royal Air Force are causing considerable damage in the well-defended industries of the Ruhr. The air offensive against Italy first caused severe damage to war industries in the north during last winter and is now directed against the south. The offensive against the islands has two immediate aims to ensure free passage through the Mediterranean from Gibraltar to Suez, to smash the air and naval defences for the purpose of opening the way for invasion. Strength and persistence characterise this offensive."

President Kalinin has spoken to the Red Army of "brilliant Allied victories" and of "a worthy consummation of the efforts of the valiant Anglo-American troops." Even the youngest were taught in Moscow radio's Children's Hour to praise Britain and jeer at the enemy in a new song when Rommel was on the run in North Africa:

Marshal Rommel went to war,
Across the Libyan sands.
Behind the drums and bands
March armies full of Huns
With tanks and shells and guns

But from El Alamein
He must ride back again,
For over Libyan sands
The British chase his bands,
Back into Tripoli
Home toward Italy.

No more is Egypt won.
From Mareth to Cape Bon,
He runs by day and night.
Poor Rommel, what a sight!

From The Times, *London.*

MOUNTBATTEN OF THE COMMANDOS

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

THE man of Vaagso and Bruneval, of St. Nazaire and Dieppe, the man who has given Hitler's coastline watchers something much worse than sleepless nights—Mountbatten of the Commandos—is now to lead the Allied forces in South-East Asia. This is perhaps the first time that a man of the sea has been given supreme command in any theatre of war. For Lord Louis Mountbatten is first and foremost a man of the sea, although he holds ranks in the other two services also. He is in the Navy—and the Navy is in him. He is a sailor of sailoring stock. But he has a combined operations mind, because he is attracted by anything new—anything that gives him a chance to be inventive. He was largely responsible for perfecting the wireless system of the British Navy.

Lord Louis, who was born in 1900, is a grandson of Queen Victoria, and son of the German Prince Louis Battenburg and Princess Victoria. Prince Louis, who became a nationalized Britisher in 1868, served many years in the Royal Navy and was First Sea Lord at the outbreak of the First World War.

Lord Louis was apprenticed to the sea at the age of 12, and four years later got caught up in the First World War. He slung his first hammock as a midshipman in Admiral Beatty's flagship, H.M.S. *Lion*, in 1916, and there began his long and adventurous service career. But his career is not just a dull list of appointments. He has been a gay social figure.

AT CAMBRIDGE

After the Armistice a number of naval officers were sent as post-graduate students to Cambridge University, one of the liveliest places in post-war England. One of the gayest of the naval contingents at Christ's was Lord Louis. His wit enlivened the Cambridge Union Debating Society. From Cambridge he went as Flag Lieutenant to H.M.S. *Renown*, and was the Prince of Wales' personal A.D.C. when the Prince toured in her to Australia and New Zealand in 1920, and to India and the Far East in 1921.

On his return from the world tour at the age of 22, Lord Louis married Edwin Ashley, known as the "nicest girl in England". The wedding took place at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in the presence of the King, the Queen and all the Royal Family. The Prince of Wales, always one of Lord Louis' closest friends, was best man.

THE COMMANDOS STRIKE AT DAWN

Behind the massive air assaults of the Royal Air Force and the United States of America Air Force, British and United States Troops will move into Europe.

When that day of wrath comes, Lord Louis Mountbatten's terrible boys in black face, the men of the commandos, will be there to help to undertake the first daring assault.

Mountbatten of the Commandos may be in Asia, but the Commandos of Mountbatten will continue to "Butcher and bolt" in Europe.

And they will strike not only at dawn but at any hour of the day or night that is necessary.

A FIGHTING MAN

When the Second World War broke out, however, Lord Louis became solely a fighting man. He was then a Captain in command of the Fifth Destroyer Flotilla. Three months later his flagship, the new destroyer *Kelly*, hit a mine in the North Sea. Lord Louis nursed her home for repairs. In the following summer she was torpedoed off Norway but, through four days of bombing, Lord Louis again got her back to port. He finally lost the *Kelly* on May 23, 1941, during the battle of Crete.

In August 1941, he was given command of the aircraft-carrier *Illustrious*, which was undergoing repairs in an American naval yard. But his purely naval career was drawing to a close, for presently he was appointed Chief of Combined Operations. In this capacity he directed not only the Commando troops themselves but the naval and air units which share the labour, glory and death of Britain's shock troops. Therefore he was also given honorary ranks in the Army and the Royal Air Force, although Lord Louis always wears his Vice-Admiral's uniform. Lord Louis was chiefly responsible for the brilliantly executed combined operations raids on the Lofoten islands, Boulogne, Vaagso islands, St. Nazaire and Dieppe.

The Commandos have made countless other unannounced raids on coastal France, Norway, the Netherlands, even on Italy and Africa. Often their bag is no more than a few Nazi soldiers and officers, isolated damage to small Nazi posts—and the incalculable effects upon Nazi morale of swift, unannounced, murderous visits after dark. But, in terms of British morale alone, the Commandos' value has been immense. In the terms of damage to Nazi morale and the uplift to civilian morale in occupied countries, it may well have been even greater. They have gathered information about Nazi coastal dispositions which may some day be very helpful to a real invasion. Most important of all, they know the technique of invasion, as no other Allied troops know it.

MEN AND MAGGOTS

By R.G.

You that have conquered fear in sky
And sea and earth, and all have done
That may be dared, and gladly die
If victory's won—

You that behind the fighter stand
By lathe from dawn till set of sun,
And labour with unresting hand
To feed the gun—

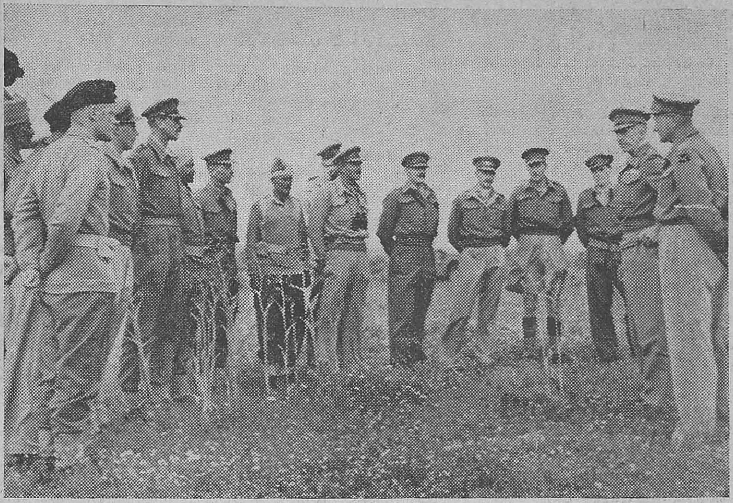
You that in fire and terror raid
No weight of bombs could shake or stun,
That saw infernos unafraid
And would not run—

Say, each of you, what do you think
Of those who every duty shun
And take, where money does not stink,
The cake and bun,

And digging in behind the dead
A greedy traffic have begun,
To make the people's loaf of bread
A dearer one?

Great God, I think you'd rather be
A Japanese or simple Hun:
For while those know no liberty,
These merit none.

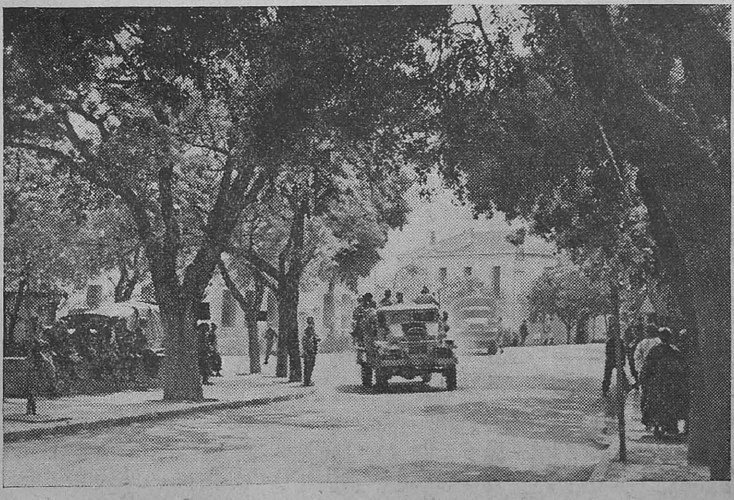
CORPS COMMANDER VISITS INDIAN TROOPS



Commander of the 10th Corps paid a special visit to the Fourth Indian Division to compliment them on their wonderful achievement at Wadi Akarit and in the hills west of Enfidaville.

The Corps Commander with the Major-General Commanding the Division talking to officers. He said "if it was not for the wonderful show put up by the Indian Division in this campaign the line would not be where it is to day."

The Division moving forward to join the First Army.



The Division passes through the shady tree-lined roads of Le Kef.

THE FEW WHO RULE JAPAN

THE words Zaibatsu, Gumbatsu and Mombatsu may seem to you so much of mere bombastu, but in Japan they actually mean much more.

They are the names of three immensely powerful groups which are virtually the master of Japan's fate, the captain of Japan's soul—if she has one.

Being that, it follows that on that fine morning when Nippon's rising sun decides that having worked overtime the time has come for him to set, the Batsus will feel pretty blue.

Zaibatsu are the big financiers and financial groups; Gumbatsu, the military clique; and Mombatsu, members of Japan's hereditary aristocracy.

The word Zaibatsu means literally financial clique. It has been estimated that one family alone, the Mitsui, controls 15 per cent of Japan's industry. The individuals and families which exercise this control constitute a multi-millionaire class.

These great family interests are organized in both horizontal and vertical trusts. They are controlled by holding companies such as the Mitsui Gomei Kaisha, the entire stock of which is held by the members of the Mitsui family. The holding company in turn controls banks and insurance companies which add to the financial resources of the industrial and commercial empire.

The Mitsui house controls banks, insurance companies, mines, shipping lines, power companies, spinning and weaving mills and a great commercial organization. The Mitsubishi firm controls a considerable part of Japan's merchant marine and is important in shipbuilding. The Sumitomo house, to mention a third, is closely interested in metals and armaments and has prospered through the war boom.

MILITARY CLIQUE

Gumbatsu is the military clique, comprising both army and navy leaders. The army and the navy enjoy a safe position in the Cabinet, because of a rule longstanding that only a General or a Lieutenant-General in active service may hold the position of Minister of the Army, or only an Admiral or Vice-Admiral the appointment of Minister of the Navy. As a result, no new Cabinet can be formed without the support of high leaders in these two groups, and a Cabinet may easily be overthrown by navy or army opposition.

Control of the army and navy continues to be exercised in each case by a relatively small group of men, who, whatever their origin, are almost independent of any outside control.

THE ARISTOCRACY

Now Mombatsu. It means the gate clique, the members of Japan's hereditary aristocracy who have the longest family tradition. They exercise political, social and economic power. The nobility, particularly, the old court nobles, hold many positions close to the Emperor, and they are supposed to exert covert political influence.

The nobility exercises power and political influence through the House of Peers. The House of Peers has powers almost equal to those of the elected House of Representatives. Above all, their famous names and influential family connections give the nobility a great advantage in political wire-pulling.

JAP'S PARTNER IN CRIME

FOUR immensely rich families—the Mitsui, Mitsubishi, Sumitomo and Yasuda—control one-third of Japan's foreign trade.

Three of them own half the shipbuilding capacity of the country. Each of them owns a large bank. Indeed, their four banks account for one-third of Japan's total bank deposits. In their trust companies lie 70 per cent of the country's total trust deposits. Their insurance companies dominate her insurance business.

These four families and a few others—the Zaibatsu or wealth clique as they are called—control nearly all the large engineering, mining, brewing, paper, chemicals, sugar, steel, non-ferrous metals, oil refining and drilling, food canning and electrical apparatus-making concerns in the country.

Possessed of enormous wealth, they naturally have very great political influence. The State depends on them to carry out its scheme of economic and political development, not only in Japan proper but in the Japanese empire.

The Mitsuis, the most powerful of these wealthy families, have been described as "the State within the State." The head of the family, Baron Takakimi Mitsui, is reputed to be Japan's wealthiest man, with a private fortune estimated at Rs. 84,37,50,000.

Having world-wide industrial and trade ramifications, theirs has been a dominating position in dialling the destinies of Japan. The Mitsui name is more than a badge, it is a background. They gave their loyal support to army extremists, built up the Japanese war machine, and to-day they claim dividends—a share in the loot.

There is, however, one snag. To-day the Mitsuis have a vague dread that one day they may share the fate of Krupps and Schneiders who played their role in the totalitarian game only to find themselves elbowed out by the military junto. For the trends of the "New Order" in Japan point to a State-imposed partnership between Government and industry for the exploitation of Asia, but a union in which industry must play the role of the junior partner.

RUNNING COMMENTARY—(*Continued from page* 4)

British and Canadian troops escorted by British naval forces landed on the Calabrian coast in the early hours of the morning of September 3, and it seems that Italy's unconditional surrender must have taken place sometime later in the course of the day. Our readers would have noticed that, during the first few days of the offensive, very little operational news was available. It was thought that this was natural as an offensive of that character would take some time to develop. But it seems now that no detailed news was made available because the armistice was concluded sometime after the landings began.

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Complete Air and Naval Co-ordination General EISENHOWER chose the northern coastal plain of Calabria as his first bridgehead in Italy, because it was on this side of the peninsula that most of the Calabrian harbours are situated. The attacking forces were given excellent support by the Royal Navy and the fact that in the narrow Messina Straits British cruisers, destroyers and similar naval craft operated showed that the Allies had very strong air cover. Allied aircraft worked in close support with the naval and ground forces with the object of preventing the flow of Axis reinforcements from north to south Italy, and events have showed they have succeeded fully and completely.

Italy has surrendered. One of the three props of the Axis has been knocked off. It is only a question of time when the other partners of evil will follow Italy.

TIGHTENING THE RING ROUND JAPAN

"India's contribution in men and materials to the allied North African Victories is an outstanding example of the way in which members of the United Nations are carrying out their pledges."

—United States Office of War Information.

"Many of the Industries engaged in the manufacture of Vital War Supplies are now better equipped to produce goods for ordinary internal consumption than they were ever before the experience gained in manufacture under the stress of war adds materially to our knowledge of modern skill and technique."

—His Excellency the Viceroy to the Legislature in August this year.

THESE are two pictures of the rise and growth of war production in India whose aim is to maintain and equip as many of our forces in India and overseas as possible and to develop production to sustain the man, the animal and the machine.

"The real course of the war cannot be measured, nor compared, nor paid for in money," declared President Roosevelt in one of his reports to Congress. To fight a common war which extends along the whole world, the United Nations need a common plan for the most effective possible use of their resources in men, materials and machines.

The aim of all war production is thus not only to increase output by all manner possible, but to increase output in such a way as to generate the maximum punch in the Allied blow.

INDIA'S SUPPLY ACTIVITIES

In this process, the capacities of Indian industries have been greatly increased, by development of their present resources, by importation of new equipment and by rapid training of personnel. They have made a deep impression on the industrial fabric of the country and what advantages India will derive from these changes depend, in the last resort, on the skill and enterprise of our industrialists in the postwar era.

In the field of labour, opportunities have been created and new avenues opened which cut across the traditional grooves of employment. A firm in India which formerly made weighing machines now makes steam presses, sugar mills, use spare capacity to make ambulance stretchers or cure potatoes. Jute mills make shell cases; cotton mills make machine-gun belts; a telephone company makes air raid sirens.

Among workers, jewellers accustomed to gold and silver, now try their hand at drawing fine lengths of the base copper for motors and dynamos. Watch-makers apply their knowledge to repair of the more complicated instruments of aircraft which guide our pilots in the fathomless ether. College students learn to rely equally on their hands as on science and are picking up a valuable trade as precision instrument makers.

In many small rubber factories, apparently crude instruments now turn out finished rubber gloves and various rubber stores such as hose pipes. In the villages, women help men to make knives or forks or sandals by the million.

WHAT IS PERMANENT IN INDIA'S PRODUCTION

The output of many things made in India before the war, from steel to pith hats, has been very greatly increased by multiple shift working and redistribution of plant and personnel and actual additions to plant. Advances of this kind are due quite as much to independent industrial enterprise as to official assistance. The overall increase of nearly 50 per cent in the output of steel, the considerable stimulation of the non-ferrous metal industries and the increase in the output of leather goods, chemicals and drugs are examples of quantitative expansions.

But there have been expansions in kind as well as in quantity and many things are being made in India now which were not made at all before the war.

Some of these are military specialities—military lorry bodies for armoured fighting vehicles, minesweeping trawlers, new types of weapons and ammunition and various items of personal and other equipment.

Others are likely to be permanent additions to industrial output. Thus, India is, for the first time, making or planning to make a number of special steels and when the war ends should be able to meet a considerable proportion of her own demands for tool steel, taps, dies and small tools. The use of plastics has been developed and the technique of die-casting has been improved.

Machine tools are being made not only in larger quantities but in better qualities and five leading manufacturers are participating in an expansion scheme to be carried out with the aid of modern technical staff. Buildings and extensions to workshops are almost complete and the bulk of the parent machine tool plants is beginning to arrive and is being installed. Three objects in mind in this expansion are: (1) increase India's contribution towards the war effort; (2) reduce the necessity of importation and save valuable shipping space; and (3) establish on a firm foundation a machine tool industry for peacetime India.

Similar basic improvements are being found in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries and, in fact, over a great part of the industrial field. New chemical plants are coming into production and further development is contemplated for basic chemicals and power alcohol.

INDIAN SILK GOES TO WAR

Indian silk goes to war and as parachute is playing its part in aerial warfare. The fever of war has tempered the art of silk weaving to perfection and stimulated an ancient industry to great heights. Capacity for the filature reeling of silk is being doubled and from 750 basins, the number of basins operating in India as a result of war expansion schemes will be raised to over 3,000, in addition to a thousand basins already fully developed in Jammu and Kashmir.

Considerable expansions in tyre production are in hand; rubber reclaimed plants are being established. Rubber production has increased and goes hand in hand with developments in the use of substitutes and planting of new and novel rubber-yielding plants.

PROVISION FOR CIVIL SUPPLIES

The Government of India has from the very first recognized that forward planning and ordering is fundamental to all war supply work. Since 1939, the objective for munitions production has been fixed on a forward basis. Since 1940–41, the same principle has been followed for general stores. In the coming months, essential civil supplies will also be fitted into this broad picture of war production under a forward estmiate of requirements. As an example of the last, a large electric power plant has just been released and installed somewhere in the United Provinces, partly to provide power for the hundreds of tubewells which are being worked in this Province for the "Grow More Food" campaign.

INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1942

A concentric pattern with a core of Government factories at the centre and a host of feeder factories over a thousand in number, drawn from industries and specializing in different components enabled India in 1942 to make notable gains in munitions production and is poised for even more important gains in 1943.

It is revealed that during 1942, production of explosives had more than doubled. Artillery equipment had advanced by over 30 per cent, small arms ammunition by 25 per cent, gun ammunition by nearly 50 per cent and light machine-guns nearly 100 per cent.

The total purchases made from major trade groups by the Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions) in India was over Rs. 5,269 lakhs in 1942, compared with over Rs. 3,843 lakhs in 1941 and Rs. 1,343 lakhs in 1940. They included, among others, munitions Rs. 456 lakhs; hand tools Rs. 318 lakhs; hardware Rs. 451 lakhs; scientific stores Rs. 64 lakhs; electrical fittings and accessories, Rs. 257 lakhs; nuts and bolts Rs. 87 lakhs; pipes and fittings Rs. 242 lakhs; minor engineering stores Rs. 103 lakhs; general engineering stores Rs. 99 lakhs and so on.

Whereas in 1941 the value of steel structural and ship building sections was Rs. 398 lakhs, in 1942 this figure rose to 511 lakhs.

The total cost of outturn of Indian ordnance factories during 1942 was Rs. 20·2 crores. Employees in these ordnance factories at the end of 1942 were near the hundred-thousand limit.

The over-all size of production in India is revealed by the following figures: values of orders handled by the Supply Department alone increased from 85 crores in the first sixteen months of the war to 118 crores in 1941, 228 crores in 1942 and to 142 crores for the first five months of 1943.

WORKING TO A COMMON PLAN

Many are familiar with the domestic problem of the family car. The father, the mother, the grown-up son, the daughter or the visiting relative may all want the car which would soon become useless unless demands are checked or subordinated to some useful purpose.

Similarly in the national field, individual enterprise must be integrated over national necessities. Project this picture on the international screen and what each country produces, what she gets from others, what she can give others, and how she utilizes her available resources are matters of concern and are part of the global pattern for victory.

In India, the visit of the Grady Mission in the early months of 1942 was followed by a joint Anglo-American Mission charged with the investigation of shipping and port conditions on the West coast of India, and more recently by the Anglo-American Joint Steel Mission. These visits enabled a deeper appreciation of each country's problems and helped planning along lines of greatest output for total victory.

The substantial aid in plant, equipment and technicians received from the United Kingdom and the United States is one of the factors which has helped war production in India. India both receives and gives on lease-lend which has emerged as the prime mechanism in the combined efforts of the United Nations.

As the war progresses, the need for maintenance and repair of equipment and provision of spares for instruments, for ships and for planes, will be one of the most important problems of offensive warfare and in this sphere, a great deal of development in India has been planned.

With recruitment to the armed services proceeding at a rate which nearly doubles India's peace-time strength every quarter, a considerable proportion of India's output is now increasingly absorbed for India's own needs. Nevertheless, from the beginning of the war up to the 30th June 1942, India supplied overseas nearly 150 million rounds of small arms ammunition; nearly three-quarters of a million of shells and over 900,000 fuzes.

For the 2½ years of the North African war India was responsible for supplying the bulk stores for this theatre of operations. Allied troops in the Mid East wore clothes made in India and, to a considerable extent, walked in boots supplied by Indian factories. Nearly 90 per cent of the tents which protected the troops from the torrid heat, the canvas ground sheets which kept the pernicious sands from tanks, planes, motors and vehicles and nearly all of the timber came from India. India sent over a million and a half tons of stores in a steady stream. In one instance, 7,000 tons of steel sheets rolled in India were shipped to the Middle East for the manufacture of anti-tank mines and enabled those vast minefields to be laid which proved invaluable during the defensive last summer.

India's workmen show adaptation and efficiency. The Indian industrialist, has shown eagerness to branch out into new fields of activity. With the ring tightening round Japan, India is husbanding her resources in such a way that our Allied Forces do not lack the wherewithal of victory.

SOLDIERS WALTZ WITH MATILDA, AIRMEN CLING TO MAE WEST

WORDS THAT WAR HAS THROWN UP

SOMETIMES brilliantly droll, often strangely quaint, the short-cuts to expression which the men in the forces employ offer picturesque variety. Tommy Atkins has a language of his own.

Not unoften he may complain: "Blimey, Sir, you can't tell the Jerries anythink. None of 'em can talk King's English."

Of course, he does—though in his own way—and is proud of it.

In the North African campaign when the Eighth Army men swore by "Tatanagars", they weren't referring to the good folks at Tatanagar (Lor' bless 'em) but, better still, to the good work they had done. The tribute was to the armoured carriers produced by the firm of Tatas at Tatanagar. Thus another word crept unceremoniously into army vocabulary.

There are scores of others. "Waltzing Matilda", for example. Here is no young lady enjoying a waltz with her favourite partner, but a British tank that can keep quite a pretty pace indeed. The Hun knows it and none better.

Ever heard of "flaming onions"? Not a new burning vegetable or a sensational dish that. It is only slang for a German anti-aircraft projectile which in explosion appears onion-shaped.

MA AND THE KIDDIES

"Molotov breadbasket" has nothing to do with the larder, nor is it any particular kind of Russian receptacle (named after the well-known Soviet leader) for keeping fruit. You are mistaken if you took it that way. It refers to a kind of bomb first used in the Soviet-Finnish war. The mother bomb when it explodes scatters a number of kid bombs.

In the language of the forces a "Jerry" is a German, "Nip" is a Jap, and "flak" and "ack-ack" denote anti-aircraft fire. "Sobbing sisters" are—Cripes! not damsels in distress—but only German mortar guns.

With a strange facility for finding pet names for most of the things they come in contact with, the men in the forces invent new labels for accepted ones with no more apparent reason than sailors have for calling bread "tommy" and rum "grog" or ordinary people have in trying to clear the air with frequent and explosive "damns".

Now, "Mae Wests", for instance. The airman who talks of his "Mae West" is not by any chance referring to the celebrated come-up-and-see-me-sometime actress. Far from it. He has in mind parachutes equipped with inflatable rubber dinghies which would help him to stay-up-sometime on the sea in case of mishap. And bombers go about laying "eggs" and sowing mines.

PIANOS—NOT FOR HIRE

Though the British multiple pom-pom beats a staccato tune of death, the seamen affectionately call it "Chicago Pianos". In naval parlance "tin-fish" is a torpedo; to some, depth charges are "ash cans" and aircraft-carriers "flat-tops". So it goes on.

And it is a war of initials as well. The Royal Air Force and the United States of America Air Force and the air forces of the other allied nations fly through a hell of flak to drop their high explosives. The M.T.Bs. race to their objectives, no matter whether Me-110s or Ju-88s are about. The P.B.I. is still doing the "pretty blooming impossible". And only when the war is over will it be possible to compute what Britain's A.T.A. and W.V.S., not to speak of the R.A.M.C., and for that matter the R.I.A.S.C. have done in this war. And to think that we have forgotten the ones nearest us—the W.A.C.(I)s.

Some of the abbreviations are themselves getting corpulent now-a-days. Witness U.S.A.C.S.R. for United States Air Corps Specialist Reserve. Confronted with these, sometimes hats are pushed back, heads scratched and chins rubbed—and one might as well ask for a Dictionary of Abbreviations!

DANISH NAVY

The following information regarding the Danish Navy which—like the French Navy—has been submerged to join Hitler's U-Boats, may be of some interest.

In 1939 the Danish Navy consisted of the following:—

Class of ship.	*Number.*	*Displacement.*
Artillery ships	2	3,800 tons.
Inspection and Coastal Defence Ships.	10	110–1,180 tons.
Mine layers	4	86–640 tons.
Mine sweepers	6	110 tons.
Survey ships	2	80 and 718 tons.
Torpedo boats	6	290 tons.
Torpedo transports	3	68 tons.
Repair ship	1	463 tons.
Submarines	10	300 tons (approx.).

An undefined number of smaller crafts.

According to reports, it is the best and newest of these that have managed to escape, namely, the Torpedo boats, all built after 1930.

THIS WEEK—IN RETROSPECT!

By " CHRONICLER "

1939

THE POLISH ROUT

At 4 a.m. on Friday the 1st September, German troops crossed the Polish frontier in three places, from the south striking into Poland's richest industrial area near the Slovak frontier, from the north-west to unite with Danzig, and from the north from East Prussia. By the 5th September 1939, the German army had reached the river Narew, only some forty miles from the capital. The Polish High Command gravely under-estimated the threat constituted by the hostile island of East Prussia, the borders of which were only some seventy-five miles north of the Polish capital. They always believed that its isolated position would enable it to be rapidly crushed, but as it turned out, the Germans had concentrated here the greater part of their heavy tanks and almost at once these were thundering down towards Warsaw. The most devastating discovery that the Poles now made was that their anti-tank guns were largely ineffective against some new alloy which the Germans had introduced into the construction of these tanks. A solid wall of tanks, therefore, was now advancing, more or less unhindered, followed by an immense body of flame-throwers. Behind them came the infantry whose task was relatively simple after this preparation. The result was in the course of four days the officers deserted the army, and though the army wished to fight on, they did not know what to do. The Polish retreat was in short a Polish rout. The German's complete mastery in the air, vast superiority in equipment, and remorseless pressure, without allowing a moment for reorganization, had in ten days reduced a proud army of three million men to a bewildered and terrified rabble, with nothing beyond an occasional isolated example of individual courage or obstinacy to check the German progress. It was the same old story as was seen in Spain, men against material; and material must always win. Poland had men, some of the bravest that Europe could have; but courage was no longer a vital factor in the winning of a war. Equipment, backed by a certain kind of propaganda-instilled morale was all that really mattered, and while the Germans had it in plenty, Poland had very little of it.

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After the German invasion of Poland began, Britain and France declared war against Germany on the 3rd September, while, on the same day General Franco, by a decree, declared Spain neutral. On the 4th September, Egypt broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and on the 5th, Yugoslavia announced her neutrality. Argentina and Chile also declared themselves neutral. On the 6th September, South Africa declared war on Germany and General Smuts formed a new cabinet. On the 7th September, Iraq severed diplomatic relations with the Reich, and on the 10th, Canada declared war against the aggressor. On the 9th September, there was a general mobilization of the Soviet Forces and concentration on the Polish Frontier. A few hours after the declaration of war against Germany, the British passenger liner " Athenia " was destroyed in the Atlantic with a complement of 1,400 passengers. In this sad event the loss of life amounted to 128.

1940

This week in 1940 was marked by concentrated attacks on London by the German Luftwaffe, which started from the 6th September. This phase was characterized by daylight raids by bombers with fighter escorts and night attacks by single bombers operating at 25,000 to 30,000 feet. Much damage was caused to docks, public buildings and private houses.

1941

THE IRANIAN DEBACLE

The most important event during this week in 1941 was the offer of Allied terms to Persia and their acceptance by the Persian Government on the *9th September*. This offer and acceptance were not, however, so easy; the Iranian Government did not yield without a fight. The resistance was quite natural. All through the summer of 1941 Persia had been spoiling for trouble. When Germany went to war with Russia it was plain that Persia was due for a show-down. Her mere geographical position dragged her overnight into the uneasy prominence of some modest cottage whose site was urgently needed by two rival business concerns. On the one side were the Allies. A few miles from Persia's northern border the Russians were preparing to defend their great oil fields against the Germans. The quashing of Nazi intrigues in Iraq had brought British troops to her western frontier. Persian territory alone lay between the Middle East Army and the Red Army, dividing them where it should have linked them, because Britain had promised Russia all help she could give, and through Persia lay the only practicable southern route.

On the other side was Germany who had of course recognized all this, months, even years, before. With painstaking persistence she had striven to gain a sure foothold in Asia, to secure a wedge of Axis-held soil between Britain and Russia. She had organized a revolt in Iraq, which British diplomacy nearly allowed to get out of hand, until downright military measures quenched it and sent its instigators flying to Persia. The Nazis then sought to get control over Syria, and that too cost the British an unpleasant campaign before it was properly countered. Persia was Germany's last hope in Asia. Ever since the war started the German Legation in Teheran had been swelling to alarming proportions. Its lists of diplomats grew longer and longer as new secretaries, attaches and clerks poured in. Its propaganda department employed something like eighty permanent workers. They edited pamphlets, arranged discreet luncheons and elaborate entertainments, offered bribes to newspapers, organized radio programmes. Paid whisperers took rumours and gossips to villages and bazaars all over the Middle East. The book-stalls were flooded with German magazines. The Nazis wormed their way into all important business concerns. They got their men well posted in the cable offices, banks, railways, radio stations, oil centres and air lines. They made their mechanics and technicians so indispensable that Persia's industry would be dislocated without them. They tied up the country's foreign trade in complicated barter arrangements.

LAW OF GRAVITATION

Feeling sure that the new recruit wasn't quite " all there," the sergeant thought he'd " take a rise out of him " for the amusement of the others.

" Look here, Biggs," he said. " What would happen if I cut off my nose ? "

" You wouldn't be able to smell, sergeant," replied Biggs.

" Quite right, m'lad," said the sergeant. " And if I cut off one ear ? "

" You wouldn't hear so well."

" Right again ! And if I cut off the other ear ? "

" You wouldn't be able to see."

With a knowing wink to the tittering crowd, the sergeant asked :

" And why shouldn't I be able to see ? "

" Because your hat would come down over your eyes, sergeant."

Behind all this was a half-legendary figure called Artur Groba. His father was a Hamburg grocer called Borg, but the son changed his name to Groba when he set out to become a Nazi Lawrence. He had visited Mecca to stir up agitation against the British. He had worked silently but forcefully to gain oil concessions for Germany in Iran. He had his agents everywhere. He bought up three Near East agitators: Rashid Ali, the quisling of Iraq; the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem; and Fauzi Kawkadji, a famous professional rebel and guerrilla specialist. All three of them were in Teheran during the week which followed the surrender of Syria.

Time and again Britain protested and asked for expulsion of the most blatant German agents; but no satisfactory answer was ever forthcoming. Reza Shah Pahlevi merely proclaimed his neutrality and denied the British allegations. He believed that the German technicians were almost indispensable. He was traditionally afraid of Russia, and it looked as though the Germans would arrive by way of the Caucasus, and therefore found no need to antagonise the Germans by expelling their agents from Persian soil. The Germans also had a grip on the country's internal administration, which they had legally gained, and all these influences were in full swing by the middle of 1941.

This critical situation in Persia created a very serious position in the Middle East. By the middle of 1941, the Middle East was no longer a water-tight front in itself. The entry of Russia into the war had profoundly altered its strategical significance and it had become the left wing of the biggest single front the world had ever known. Britain, therefore, could no more afford to conduct the more or less halting, indifferent campaigns of 1940, and the Persian affair was immediately taken up by General Sir Archibald Wavell who had just been transferred from the Middle East Command to India. He directed the Persian operations from Simla. By the end of August 1941, the British Forces marched into Persia in two separate offensives. One had advanced south-eastward from Basra to take the great oil-fields and refineries; the other from Khanakin, east of Baghdad, to follow the great trunk road to Teheran. The Red Army also advanced swiftly into Persia from the north. Abedan, Teheran and the whole of Persia fell without much trouble; and the British and Russian armies met thirty miles west of Kazvin, a small town just ninety miles from Teheran, once a great caravan junction of Asia, with a history crammed with romance, and with a population composed of all the many nations which had conquered it. On September 9, the Shah accepted the Anglo-Russian terms and abdicated on September 17 when the new Shah, the Crown Prince, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi was sworn in. The Iranian episode was one of the major events of the war from the point of view of strategy; it cemented the Middle Eastern theatre and made the contact between British and Russian armies possible; and above all, it helped the establishment of a continuous supply line to Russia.

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THE EIGHTH ARMY

By this time preparations for an offensive in the Western Desert were being hastened. For months Britain had been sending to the Middle East, in Winston Churchill's words, "everything we could lay our hands on." Huge supply dumps were being built up, troops were being regrouped, plans were being shaped. British Press had been clamouring for action and Russia was getting impatient for a second front. But General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East, refused to be rushed. It had been decided that this time, for once, Britain should go into battle not inferior to the enemy either on land or in the air. The code name for the offensive was the "Crusader." The Australian divisions had been withdrawn from Egypt and sent to Palestine and Syria. The South African divisions came up to the desert, one of them fresh from victories in Abyssinia. There was rather more than one Indian division, and one New Zealand division. The old Seventh Armoured Division was there. It comprised the Seventh Armoured Brigade, armed with old British cruiser tanks, and the Fourth Armoured Brigade, equipped with the new fourteen-ton American tanks. Five weeks before the battle began the 22nd Armoured Brigade arrived in Egypt with its new British A-13 and A-15 tanks. This was the force which was mustered to face Rommel and his mixed German-Italian army. It was detached from the British troops in Egypt command, and grouped into an entirely separate command called the *Eighth Army*. Its Commander was Major-General Sir Alan Cunningham, hero of the capture of Addis Ababa, and brother of Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham who had been commanding the Eastern Mediterranean fleet since the war began. Equipment for Cunningham's army had been flowing in all the summer for the new offensive for which the zero hour was to come on November 18, 1941. "We are going to drive deep into Libya," said General Cunningham at a press conference on November 16.

The German army was also getting ready under General Erwin Rommel, Commander of the German Afrika Korps. Under him he had the 15th and 21st German Armoured divisions, numbering about eight thousand men each, but extremely highly trained, equipped and mechanized; a German positional division; and the Italian Savona, Paira, Trento, Trieste, Brescia and Bologna infantry divisions; the Italian Ariete Armoured Division. The three armoured divisions were supposed to have 135 tanks each. All the summer the enemy had been fortifying the steep escarpment which curls in from the sea at Sollum and then sweeps away obliquely in land from Halfaya Pass. Guarding this line Rommel had put his 21st Armoured Division and the Italian Savona Division. The rest of his forces were more or less grouped round the Tobruk perimeter. He had decided that he must start an offensive and take Tobruk which was for six months a festering wound in his side. He had, therefore, decided to launch the offensive on November 14, which was his fiftieth birthday: but for some reason he had to postpone it. For Auchinleck too, Tobruk was the key, and he decided to go ahead. In January 1941 Tobruk was in Italian hands. On the 21st January the British offensive started and the Italians held Tobruk only for two days. By April, however, the German army reached Tobruk and since then it stood high and dry, an island of resistance. But it was getting fed and maintained throughout from outside, and once, by a daring night manœuvre, the garrison had been relieved and changed without the loss of a single man.

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THE RUSSIAN THEATRE

This was the twelfth week of the German invasion of Russia. Leningrad was reported to be in danger. Marshal Voroshilov set up a military council of six to defend Leningrad. In the southern sector Marshal Buddeny was launching a series of attacks on the west bank of the Dnieper and the German attempts to cross the Dnieper were being repeatedly repulsed. In the central sector Marshal Timoshenko was carrying on a Russian offensive.

* * * * *

1942

This week in September 1942 the Battle for Egypt was raging on a much fiercer scale, General Rommel having renewed his offensive on May 26 in order to win essential communications so as to shut off Russia from any aid from outside. Accordingly by July 1 Rommel had taken Tobruk and reached El Alamein in Egypt, and Hitler was hoping that he could smash his way through the Caucasus and meet Rommel near the Suez. But Stalingrad still stood which caused uneasiness to the German army in Russia and Rommel was not able to make much headway on land. There had been heavy fighting in the El Himeimat region and in the Allied southern flank at Gazala; but by this week all was quiet. Rommel had failed and returned home on account of ill-health; Egypt had been held; but the lull on the Egyptian front was only of a temporary character.

On the 8th September Mr. Churchill gave a masterly review of the war situation in the House of Commons. He referred to the successful action of the Allied Forces off the Midway Island in the South-west Pacific, followed by the occupation of Guadalcanal, Tulagi and other islands in the Solomons. He concluded: "The hour of liberation strikes. It will also be the hour of retribution." On the 9th September the British Chancellor of the Exchequer introduced in the House of Commons the vote of credit for £1,000 millions and said that during recent weeks Britain's average expenditure amounted to £12½ millions daily, the increase of expenditure being mainly due to increase in the production of munitions. On the Russian front Stalingrad, Russia's great tank city, was in great peril. In the Caucasus the situation worsened and most sanguinary battles were taking place. In the south-west the Germans attacked Novorossisk wherefrom the Russian army had to fall back. The one confident note about the whole situation was through the skill of Marshal Timoshenko the Soviet army was being kept intact.

KNOCKED DOWN

"We have knocked down Mussolini and Fascism in Italy. We will do the same to Hitler and Nazism. We will have unconditional surrender from the Axis."

GENERAL MONTGOMERY *in replying to a message of congratulations from the Lyric Cinema Junior Club, on September 4.*

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

2ND SEP.—Lord Wavell was in London, likewise Lord Louis Mountbatten, the former attending various farewell functions and making final preparations for his departure.

The Royal Air Force smashed the lockgates in the Hanswert Canal in Holland.

3RD SEP.—Berlin and Paris were raided.

4TH SEP.—Berlin was again bombed. The Paris Radio said that the bombing of Paris was a prelude to the invasion of France.

The German Government decided to evacuate Vienna. Bologne was "almost wiped out" by American bombers.

The Papal Envoy, Sgr. Giovanni Fummi, arrived in London.

5TH SEP.—Mosquitoes bombed objectives in the Ruhr and Rhineland. Three E-boats were destroyed in the Channel.

General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of all United States Army and Air Forces, said: "Germany has got to stop Allied bombers from reaching Germany or it will be a finish for her."

After the last raid on Berlin, hundreds of attacks were made on policemen, Gestapo men and Nazi party officials. Some deaths resulted.

The French National Committee in London decided to hand over Marshal Petain and all members of his Government to the Allies for trial as war criminals as soon as circumstances permitted.

6TH SEP.—Aircraft of the Bomber Command attacked Mannheim and Ludwigshapen, an important chemical and armaments centre. Heavy damage was done. Objectives in Rhineland and airfields in northern France and Belgium were also attacked. An enemy mine-sweeper was destroyed in the Channel. At least seven enemy aircraft were destroyed. Flying Fortresses attacked targets in south-west Germany.

A British Admiralty and Air Ministry Communiqué stated that seven U-boats were destroyed in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay.

7TH SEP.—The Royal Air Force attacked Munich. Targets in Belgium and France were also attacked.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

2ND SEP.—According to the latest official figures, more than 100,000 members of the United States military forces and merchant marine had so far been killed in action, wounded, reported missing, or taken prisoner.

3RD SEP.—Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt were in conference. Talks were mainly concerned with British-American relations with Russia. Both sat up till 1 a.m. (Washington time) awaiting the flash announcing Allied invasion of Italy.

4TH SEP.—It was authoritatively stated in Washington that a Commission which would include Russian representatives was being organized to handle problems arising from the Mediterranean operations.

Senator Tydings urged Britain, the United States, Russia and China to act in concert to prevent another world war.

The active participation of British forces against Japan in the war of the Pacific was discussed in a conference between Mr. Churchill and Sir Owen Dixon, Australian Minister in Washington.

6TH SEP.—Mr. Churchill received an honorary degree of the Harvard University. The citation of the degree read: "Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, Doctor of Laws: an historian who has written a glorious page in British history: a statesman and warrior whose tenacity and courage turned back the tide in freedom's darkest hour."

7TH SEP.—Talks were renewed between Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt. It was believed that important developments were imminent in Italy.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

2ND SEP.—Bombers of the United States Air Force attacked Japanese-controlled railway installations in Central Burma.

5TH SEP.—Bombers of the United States Air Force attacked the railway yards at Maymyo near Mandalay. It was revealed that on September 3, heavy bombers flew 2,000 miles in an attack on the military facilities at Nicobar islands. Several direct hits were made on the docks and adjacent installations.

6TH SEP.—The Royal Air Force shot down an enemy plane over Akyab. Japanese supply dumps at Taungup were attacked.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

2ND SEP.—Bombers of the North-west African Air Forces attacked a military camp and other targets in southern Italy.

Count Ciano's possessions were seized.

A powerful British naval force reached Gibraltar.

3RD SEP.—*The Eighth Army landed on the Italian mainland and the invasion of Italy began.*

4TH SEP.—American troops landed in Sardinia. Reggio was captured. Parachutists landed behind Axis lines. A large number of prisoners were taken.

Allied troops made a second landing in southern Italy. Brenner Pass bridges were bombed.

The Rome Radio said: "The enemy's invasion is now in full swing. The enemy has set foot on the Italian mainland and is taking full advantage of his material superiority."

Count Ciano was arrested by the Italian Police.

5TH SEP.—The Allied troops captured Bagnara and Melito. The Italian fleet abandoned Taranto. A British infantry regiment landed at Palmi. The Eighth Army held the coast road and railway running for 30 miles around the toe of Italy. Some of the best Italian troops surrendered voluntarily. Traffic on the Brenner Pass railway was stopped.

6TH SEP.—San Stefani was captured and 3,000 prisoners were taken. The Eighth Army captured 10 more towns and villages. The Rome Radio said: "More invasions are on the way and they will come soon. Southern Calabria was evacuated by the Italian and German military command. The Eighth Army contacted Germans.

7TH SEP.—The Allies took Palmi and Delianuova. The Allied troops encountered very little opposition.

8TH SEP.—Italy's surrender to the Allies on Sep. 3 announces publicly today.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

2ND SEP.—The Russians captured Sumy and Lisichansk. Soviet troops pursued the retreating Germans in the Dorogobuzh sector about 50 miles east of Smolensk.

3RD SEP.—The German line in northern Ukraine was rolled up like a carpet. Russian offensive on the Central Donetz was in full swing.

4TH SEP.—Russian army registered progress in the Donbas where the German lines were on the point of cracking. The Russians drove deeper into northern Ukraine.

5TH SEP.—The Russians captured Artemovsk. The Red Army broke through west of Kirov. In the Donbas, the Germans fell back with heavy losses.

Marshal Stalin, as Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, received Metropolitan Sergins and other Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church.

6TH SEP.—The Russians captured Makeeva and Konotop. Russian tanks threatened an encirclement of Bryansk.

7TH SEP.—It was revealed that 400,000 Germans were killed in this summer offensive. The Russian army entered the suburbs of Stalino.

Violent fighting broke out between Russian and Finnish naval ships in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland.

8TH SEP.—Stalino has been taken by the Russian army.

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NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

4TH SEP.—The Turkish motor vessel *Kirloneic* arrived at the Aegean port of Kash with one of the crew killed and two wounded following a machine gun attack by five unidentified planes.

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SHIPPING

2ND SEP.—A small German merchantman *Thisbi* was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean.

General Charles de Gaulle (right) *is welcomed by General Henri Honore Giraud upon General de Gaulle's arrival from England at an airport in Algeria to take part in the formation of the French Committee of National Liberation, of which the two generals became co-Chiarmen. This is a print from the original negative of a photograph previously serviced from a radiophoto negative.*

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

3RD SEP.—The Germans used dive-bombers and tanks to smash the resistance of the Danish Garrison at Naested.

4TH SEP.—Fifteen-thousand Slovak troops revolted. The revolt broke out in the garrison at Trnava, Central Slovakia.

5TH SEP.—Another batch of 100 Danish refugees arrived in Sweden.

6TH SEP.—The Turkish Istanbul newspaper *Aksham* said: "It can be surmised the Allies will not delay invasion of Balkans until next Spring."

It was reported that Allied staff officers in the Middle East Command had completed a series of conferences with Balkan guerilla leaders in Greece and Yugoslavia.

7TH SEP.—German troops occupied Athens and Salonika.

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THE FAR EAST

2ND SEP.—The Chinese forces retook Havenli. Allied ground troops closed in on Salamaua air field. Thirty-six Japanese planes were shot down.

3RD SEP.—United States troops encircled the southern Japanese bastion protecting the important New Guinea base of Salamaua.

4TH SEP.—A Japanese convoy was attacked in South-west Pacific. Three transports were sunk.

Fighters of the United States Air Force bombed Japanese positions in southern Hupet. Hongkong and Hanoi were raided by American air craft. Japanese forces started retreating in Western Yunnan.

Mrs. Roosevelt arrived in Canberra from New Zealand.

5TH SEP.—According to the *Foreign Commerce Weekly* of Washington, Japan had "rewarded" Thailand with parts of British Malaya and the Shan States.

A Japanese attack south-west of Canton was held in check by the Chinese.

Mr. John Curtin, Australian Prime Minister, presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a journal kept by the British explorer Captain James Cook who discovered Australia on his voyage round the world.

Eighty-four tons of bombs were dropped by Allied planes on Japanese headquarters at Lae in New Guinea. During August, 584 enemy planes were destroyed in the south-west Pacific area—a record number. Allied losses were 145.

6TH SEP.—Allied troops landed in force on the coast of Huon Gulf on the north coast of New Guinea. The Japanese were pushed into the sea at the southern end of the Kila ridge.

7TH SEP.—The Allies closed the ring round Lae and Salamaua.

"AN ANNIVERSARY SENTIMENT"

Service to countrymen; service to mother country; and service to fellowmen all over the world is the clear call to-day to every Indian, man or woman.

To hear the crying need for such dedication and sacrifice, one has only to keep his eyes and ears open. The need is growing and presses heavily on everyone. There is so much that every official and non-official of influence, men and women of means, ability and education can do.

The call bears no stamp of creed, or colour. Such distinctions, if attempted, will be petty and cruel. There can, therefore, be no questioning; no delaying. To respond to this unmistakable urge of the conscience is only doing one's duty.

Hence it is my appeal to the fellow members of the National War Front to dedicate themselves to-day for such complete service.

—*A member of the National War Front.*

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